

19th July 2023

End of Term, Summer 2023

Dear Parents and Carers.

As the summer term draws to a close, I would like to congratulate students and staff on all that has been achieved over the last academic year. In a time of great change, we have come together as a community and shown each day what it means to be *more than a school*. I thank all parents for your ongoing support, and all staff and Governors for their commitment to creating the best experiences for our young people.

Students finish for the summer term on Friday 21st July at 12.00pm. New students joining us in Year 7 will return on Monday 4th September with all students in school from Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Please note that there has been a slight change to the published term dates, which can be found on our website. https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Term+dates&pid=34



We will finish the autumn term on Wednesday 20th December at 12.30pm, instead of Friday 22nd December, and will be returning on Tuesday 9th January 2024 instead of Monday 8th January 2024.

Students eligible for free school meals have been sent vouchers this week, to cover the summer period. For places where children can eat free or for £1 during the summer holidays, please visit the following link:

https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

There have been so many highlights to this term, culminating in a fantastic week of enrichment activities with students visiting Liverpool, Manchester, Drayton Manor, Blackpool, Cheshire Oaks, and the whole school taking part in a walk together. For highlights from the summer term, please see my Head's report for Governors by clicking the links below.

Part 1 – Update on progress towards our strategic goals

https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=195&type=pdf

Blacon High School, Melbourne Road, Chester, CH1 5JH



01244 371 475

☐ admin@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

www.blaconhighschool.net



Blacon High School



Part 2 – Highlights from the summer term

https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=194&type=pdf

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Summer 2023

The Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, is running a wide range of activities for the summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme that will run throughout the school summer holiday. HAF is a national funding programme for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays and more information can be found here.

Edsential

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 47 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 66 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this summer period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with:

- healthy meals and snacks, along with family cooking sessions and nutritional/health education
- a variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops
- diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, and much more

Families can also keep up-to-date with Edsential's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, on social media and the HAF website.

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Operated by the Council's Youth Service, Youth Zones will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a summer offer. All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal or packed lunch. Programme plans include arts and crafts, face painting, silent disco, Urban Music Event - including beat boxing, mc-ing and rapping, graffiti, dance workshops with Studio 13, Boo Zoo, multi sports, inflatables, and trips out.

For further information, visit the <u>HAF website</u> or email: <u>EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</u>

Provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. The varied offer will include sessions for children and young people such as arts and crafts, gardening, music and dance, cooking and baking, cycling and swimming. Activities will be on offer across the whole of the summer holidays and a healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, visit the <u>HAF website</u>, or email: <u>AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</u>



Brio Leisure

Brio Leisure will be running various activity programmes from sites across the borough. The range of activities include multi-sport activities, Fun and Floats, and sports camps, all of which will include a healthy meal. You can find out more <u>here</u>.

Criteria/eligibility for the programme

This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to Year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, and for all children with SEND.

Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to students if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, and have a claim verified by their school or local authority. For further information on eligibility, visit the free school meals website here.

Any questions? Please email haf@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Cost of living support

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. They may need help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, support getting all the money they're entitled to, or simply want to know more about national recent support measures. Whatever their money worries may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help. The web page includes a wealth of information including the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, Warm Welcoming Spaces, and much more.

Visit: Cost of living support

The school office will remain open until 1.30pm on our final day on Friday 21st July. After this date, reception will be open each day between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm throughout the summer, apart from the bank holiday on Monday 28th August.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the summer. We look forward to welcoming students back to school in September.

Regards,

Rachel Hudson

L.E. Hudin

Headteacher